

## NEWS CONFERENCE

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WITH COMMANDER W. R. ANDERSON  
COMMANDING OFFICER, U.S.S. NAUTILUS

NORTHWEST PASSAGE MISSION

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AUGUST 8, 1958

P. M. -- 1:45 -- E.D.S.T.

FRIDAY

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HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM  
THE WHITE HOUSE

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MR. HAGERTY: Several things, before we start.

Since July 22nd, the NAUTILUS has been engaged in an exercise known as NORTHWEST PASSAGE. The NAUTILUS left Pearl Harbor -- July 23 and, after traversing the Bering Straits, the North Pole and the Ice Cap, signaled to us completion of its mission of going through, for the first time in history, a new passage between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

Present today is the Commander of that ship, Commander Anderson. There will be two parts to this ceremony today. There will be a Presidential Citation to the Commander and a Presidential Unit Citation to the officers and men of the Submarine. Following that, the Commander will give you an outline of the trip, what happened, what he found, how his mission was accomplished.

The Commander was taken off the ship by helicopter from Iceland last night and was flown here today. He arrived here today at Noon and is presently with the President.

Q. What's his first name?

MR. HAGERTY: W. R.

Q. Where is he from?

MR. HAGERTY: He's from Tennessee -- I'll find out the rest for you. Here are copies of the Citations. He has also prepared a short fact sheet which will give you the direction of the travel and the like.

This mission opens up, as both Citations will show, the possibility of a new commercial sea lane under the ice by nuclear-powered cargo submarines. It cuts down the distance -- and there will be a map which we will put up here shortly -- between the two oceans markedly. For instance, from London to Tokyo at the present time, by nautical miles, it's a distance of 11,300 miles by the shortest present route through the Panama Canal. Across the North Pole that route is only 6,300 miles.

We are operating under the usual White House rules here, nobody leaves until this press conference ends.

Q. Jim, would you say what that route was from Pearl Harbor to ---